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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/440,645	11/16/1999	AVERY FONG	5244-0109-2	3214
22850 7590 03/27/2007 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER LESNIEWSKI, VICTOR D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2152	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/27/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

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Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/440,645	FONG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Victor Lesniewski	2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-10,14-19,23-28 and 32-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-10,14-19,23-28 and 32-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/10/2007</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed 1/26/2007 has been placed of record in the file.
2. Claims 1, 10, 19, and 28 have been amended.
3. Claims 1, 5-10, 14-19, 23-28, and 32-36 are now pending.
4. The applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5-10, 14-19, 23-28, and 32-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the following new grounds of rejection.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

5. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. The applicant's submission filed on 1/26/2007 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

6. The IDS filed 1/10/2007 has been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 16, 17, 19, 25, 26, 28, 34, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyachi (U.S. Patent Number 6,108,492) in view of Weiler et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,026,380), hereinafter referred to as Weiler.

9. Miyachi disclosed a multifunction peripheral that monitors and stores its status information and reports it to a host computer. In an analogous art, Weiler disclosed a method for recording usage information of a peripheral for accounting and billing purposes.

10. Concerning claims 1, 10, 19, and 28, Miyachi did not explicitly state monitoring at least one of a sequence, timing, or frequency of selecting of the plurality of operations. Miyachi does teach monitoring selections of the operations at the operation panel. Clearly a multifunction peripheral such as Miyachi's must monitor user input at the operation panel in order to effectuate the proper operations requested by the user. However, Miyachi is not explicit on monitoring a more specific sequence, timing, or frequency of this user input. This type of monitoring of the peripheral's operation panel was well known in the art, though, as evidenced by Weiler whose system monitors certain sequences of input and also the timing of user input for controlling a peripheral device. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Miyachi by adding the ability to monitor at least one of a sequence, timing, or frequency of selecting of the plurality of operations as provided by Weiler. Here the combination satisfies the need for recording usage information in a peripheral device which is inexpensive to install, maintain, and repair. See Weiler, column 1, lines 26-28. This rationale also applies to those dependent claims utilizing the same combination.

11. Also concerning claims 1, 10, 19, and 28, Miyachi did not explicitly state that the image forming device has direct network access. Although Miyachi does teach that his multifunction

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peripheral has network access this access is via a host computer. However, providing an image forming device with direct network access was well known in the art at the time of the applicant's invention. It was obvious in the field of computer networks to combine the functionality of multiple computers distributed across the network into a single device or to take the functionality in one device and distribute it over multiple computers across the network. Thereby, direct network access could have easily been incorporated into Miyachi's multifunction peripheral. In addition, Miyachi clearly states the use of image forming devices that have direct network access. See figure 1, printers 180. Although these devices are different from Miyachi's multifunction peripheral with a monitoring unit and a communicating unit, they show that the ability to provide an image forming device with direct network access was already well known in the art. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Miyachi by adding the ability for the image forming device to have direct network access.

12. Some claims will be discussed together. Those claims which are essentially the same except that they set forth the claimed invention as a method, a computer program product, or an alternative system are rejected under the same rationale applied to the described claim.

13. Line citations in the following section refer to Miyachi unless otherwise noted.

14. Thereby, the combination of Miyachi and Weiler discloses:

- <Claims 1, 10, 19, and 28>

A system comprising: an image forming device having direct network access (figure 1, MFP 110a with LAN 100 or PSTN 130, and obviousness as discussed above concerning "direct" network access) and including an operation panel, the operation panel

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comprising a plurality of operations to be selected by a user (column 5, lines 27-32); a monitoring unit configured to monitor data of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel by the user, including monitoring at least one of a sequence, timing, or frequency of selecting of the plurality of operations, and to generate a log of the monitored data (column 5, lines 57-65 and Weiler, column 4, lines 48-63), the log of the monitored data being in a form of a map mapping each of key data in a key portion of the map to respective value data in a corresponding value data portion (columns 6-7, table 1); a communicating unit configured to receive a command to send information based on the log of the monitored data, and to send the information of the monitored data through the direct network access (column 10, lines 36-42 and 58-65, and figure 2, items 210, 215, 260, and 265), and wherein the monitoring unit and communicating unit are self-contained in the image forming device prior to any initial external communication connection by the communication unit, and the monitoring unit is configured to generate the log of the monitored data without any initial external communication connection by the communicating unit (figure 2, item 110a and column 5, lines 57-65).

- <Claims 7, 16, 25, and 34>

A system according to Claim 1, wherein the key data and the value data in the map both contain string data (columns 6-7, table 1).

- <Claims 8, 17, 26, and 35>

A system according to Claim 7, wherein the value data portion includes plural vectors in which each vector includes an array of strings (columns 6-7, table 1).

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Since the combination of Miyachi and Weiler discloses all of the above limitations, claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 16, 17, 19, 25, 26, 28, 34, and 35 are rejected.

15. Claims 5, 6, 9, 14, 15, 18, 23, 24, 27, 32, 33, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyachi in view of Weiler, as applied above, further in view of Aikens et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,414,494), hereinafter referred to as Aikens.

16. The combination of Miyachi and Weiler disclosed a multifunction peripheral that monitors and stores its status information and reports it to a host computer, including sequence, timing, or frequency information of user input. In an analogous art, Aikens disclosed a method for automatically notifying a remote device in response to certain machine conditions of a peripheral.

17. Concerning claims 5, 6, and like claims, the combination of Miyachi and Weiler did not explicitly state such status conditions as a user exiting operation or a number of sessions to be executed. Miyachi sets forth a multitude of status conditions that are monitored by his multifunction peripheral but the majority of them are directed to mechanical properties of the apparatus. However, Aikens does explicitly disclose the certain status conditions as claimed as his system is more focused on setting status conditions directly related to the user's session with the machine. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Miyachi and Weiler by adding the ability to utilize such status conditions as a user exiting operation or a number of sessions to be executed as provided by Aikens. Here the combination satisfies the need for the ability to quickly alert a

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technician at a remote location of a certain status of a peripheral. See Miyachi, column 3, lines 35-42.

18. Concerning claims 9 and like claims, the combination of Miyachi and Weiler did not explicitly state communicating the log of the monitored data by Internet mail. However, Aikens does explicitly disclose this feature as his system provides for the use of email between the peripheral and the remote location. Furthermore, it is noted that although Aikens does not explicitly state use of the Internet, the ability to transfer email over the Internet was well known at the time of the applicant's invention and it would have been a clear extension to the system of Aikens to simply send his email using the Internet. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Miyachi and Weiler by adding the ability to communicate the log of the monitored data by Internet mail as provided by Aikens. Again the combination satisfies the need for the ability to quickly alert a technician at a remote location of a certain status of a peripheral. See Miyachi, column 3, lines 35-42.

19. Thereby, the combination of Miyachi, Weiler, and Aikens discloses:

- <Claims 5, 14, 23, and 32>

A system according to Claim 1, wherein the communicating unit sends the log of the monitored data when the user exits operating the image forming device (Aikens, column 8, lines 24-31).

- <Claims 6, 15, 24, and 33>

A system according to Claim 1, further comprising a setting unit configured to set a number of sessions of the image forming device to be executed by the user prior to the

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communicating unit communicating the log of the monitored data (Aikens, column 8, lines 24-31).

- <Claims 9, 18, 27, and 36>

A system according to any one of Claims 5-8, wherein the communicating unit communicates the log of the monitored data by Internet mail (Aikens, column 6, lines 33-41 and figure 5, items 11 and "Mail").

Since the combination of Miyachi, Weiler, and Aikens discloses all of the above limitations, claims 5, 6, 9, 14, 15, 18, 23, 24, 27, 32, 33, and 36 are rejected.

Conclusion

20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor Lesniewski whose telephone number is 571-272-3987.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

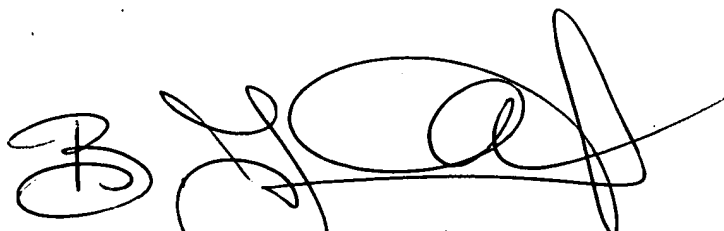
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571-272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER